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PROGRAM Morning Edition STATION WAMU-FM NPR Network

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SUBJECT Intelligence Reporting in Central America

CARL KASELL: The House Intelligence Committee released a 47-page report yesterday criticizing certain aspects of American intelligence reporting on Central America. NPR's Bill Buzenberg says that the House study found serious lapses in the objectivity of some intelligence reports.

BILL BUZENBERG: The issue raised by the House report is this: Has the Reagan Administration's tough policy on Central America skewed intelligence reporting on that region? American intelligence agencies would answer no. But the report by the House Oversight and Evaluation Subcommittee says yes, in some instances.

Subcommittee Chairman Charles Rose of North Carolina says their findings were released yesterday over the objections of intelligence agencies in order to prod them in public.

REP. CHARLES ROSE: We generally give them nothing but praise. But on occasion we find some things that we think need to be corrected.

BUZENBERG: What needs to be corrected, Rose says, are instances where intelligence reporting on Central America appear to bend to Administration policy.

REP. ROSE: There were some overstatements, some oversimplifications, some almost misinformation in some cases, that if continued could fall into a pattern of having the policymakers driving the intelligence, rather than the intelligence being independent.

BUZENBERG: Three examples cited in the House report:

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